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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 123 (a) appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/51/724.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 56th, 57th and 70th meetings, on 12 and 13 May and 6 June 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.56, 57 and 70).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/51/405/Add.1 and 2) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/684/Add.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.78

4. At the 70th meeting, on 6 June, the representative of Portugal introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" (A/C.5/51/L.78), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.78 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force,[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and taking note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[3]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974, by which the Council established the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1081 (1996) of 27 November 1996,

Recalling its resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 50/20 B of 7 June 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

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[1] A/51/405/Add.1 and 2.

[2] A/51/684/Add.1.

[3] A/51/432, annex.

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

Concerned also that the surplus balances in the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force have been used to meet expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 15 May 1997, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 47.9 million United States dollars, representing 4.2 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending 31 May 1997, notes that some 24 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 33,616,400 dollars gross (32,714,400 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of the amount of 1,248,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be assessed on Member States at the monthly rate of 2,801,366 dollars gross (2,726,200 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and 51/218 A and B of 18 December 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years

1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and 1998,[4] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 May 1997;

8. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 888,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998;

9. Decides further that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the estimated other income of 14,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998;

10. Decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the assessment, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 1,129,300 dollars gross (1,066,700 dollars net) for the period ending 30 June 1996;

11. Decides also that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, their share of the unencumbered balance of 1,129,300 dollars gross (1,066,700 dollars net) for the period ending 30 June 1996 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

12. Decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the assessment, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the surplus balance of 2,358,000 dollars for the period from 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994;

13. Decides also that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, their share of the surplus balance of 2,358,000 dollars for the period from 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

14. Invites voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the subitem entitled "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force".

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[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.